

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2403

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, PDEV, MZ

SUBJECT: GUMO WISHES PLEAD CASE AT UN; DR. SIMIAO

VISIT TO U.S.

1. SUMMARY: DR. JOANA SIMIAO STATES GUMO IS TRYING TO CONVINCE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES OF ITS GOOD FAITH, AND GET PERMISSION PLEAD ITS CAUSE BEFORE SUITABLE UNITED NATIONS ORGAN, TO SHOW WORLD THAT FRELIMO IS NOT SPEAKING FOR ALL MOZAMBICANS. GUMO CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT U.S. ATTITUDE WOULD BE TOWARD GUMO APPEARANCE AT UN. IF LATTER MATERIALIZES, DR. SIMIAO WOULD LIKE TO BE INVITED VISIT UNITED STATES FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AFTERWARDS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 18, DR. JOANA SIMIAO CALLED AT OFFICE TO BRING ME UP TO DATE ON LATEST GUMO PLANS. SHE SAID GUMO HAS TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES: A) TO CONVINCE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES OF ITS GOOD FAITH AND GENUINE DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL IN SOLVING PRESENT DILEMMA(SHE THOUGHT RECENT FRELIMO BROADCAST DENOUNCING GUMO AS "LAST ATTEMPT" (ULTIMA TENTATIVA) OF PORTUGUESE REGIME, WOULD HELP ACCOMPLISH THIS); B) TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES (PROBABLY SIMIAO, MAXIMO DIAS AND JORGE ABREU) TO UNITED NATIONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMISSION OF PETITIONS OR OTHER SUITABLE ORGAN.

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EM SIMIAO CONSIDERS LATTER OF URGENT NECESSITY TO PREVENT FRELIMO FROM ESTABLISHING ITSELF MORE SOLIDLY IN UN CIRCLES, AND TO DEMONSTRATE BEFORE INTERNATIONAL FORUM THAT THERE IS GROUP WITHIN MOZAMBIQUE OTHER THAN FRELIMO WHICH HAS RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR MOZAMBICAN PEOPLE. EVEN IF GUMO REPS SHOULD BE SHOUTED DOWN IN PLENARY SESSIONS, SHE FEELS THERE WOULD STILL BE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO GET GUMO'S VIEWS ACROSS THROUGH CORRIDOR CONTACTS.

4. NEXT STEP IS FOR GUMO TO ADDRESS LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER CAETANO REQUESTING PERMISSION TO SEND REPS TO UN, NOT AS PART OF REGULAR PORTUGUESE DELEGATION, BUT SIMPLY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF A BODY OF MOZAMBICAN OPINION. CAPACITY IN WHICH THEY APPEAR LESS IMPORTANT THAN NECESSITY THAT THEY APPEAR. IF PM IS RECEPTIVE TO IDEA, SIMIAO DIAS AND ABREU WOULD HOPE VISIT LISBON EARLY APRIL TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL (ASSUMING POLITICAL CRISIS SETTLED BY THEN).

5. DR. SIMIAO WOULD LIKE KNOW SOONEST HOW US WOULD REGARD SUCH PROCEDURE - WHETHER US DEL WOULD SUPPORT GUMO'S RIGHT TO ADDRESS COMMISSION ON PETITIONS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE UN ORGAN, OR WOULD OPPOSE, OR ABSTAIN.

6. IF UN APPEARANCE MATERIALIZES, DR. SIMIAO SAID SHE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY REMAIN IN US SEVERAL WEEKS AFTERWARDS TO TALK ABOUT WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, GUMO AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE. WITHOUT MAKING COMMITMENT, I SAID WE MIGHT BE ABLE WORK SOMETHING OUT BUT THAT ALL ASPECTS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT OVER BEFORE PROCEEDING.

7. NOTE: IF SHE IS INVITED BY USG TO VISIT US ON REGULAR INTERNATIONAL VISITOR'S GRANT, WE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO INFORM GOVERNOR GENERAL IN ADVANCE, AS HAS BEEN DONE WITH PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS FROM MOZAMBIQUE TO INSURE THERE WOULD BE NO COMPLICATIONS IN HAVING PASSPORT ISSUED, ETC. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR SIMIAO TO MAKE HER OWN ARRANGEMENTS TO ATTEND UNITED NATIONS FOLLOWING WHICH DEPT MIGHT DEFRAY EXPENSE OF FEW EXTRA WEEKS IN UNITED STATES ON CAREFULLY ARRANGED PROGRAM. I WOULD THINK SECOND ALTERNATIVE PREFERABLE, AS OUTRIGHT SPONSORSHIP OF ENTIRE CONFIDENTIAL

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TRIP AT THIS STAGE MIGHT CAUSE COMPLICATIONS IN HER RELATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE AND IN HER ATTEMPTS TO GET GUMO FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN MOZAMBIQUE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: A) WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND/OR USUN'S VIEWS (IF POSSIBLE IN FORM WHICH I CAN PASS ORALLY TO SIMIAO) ON WHAT US POSITION MIGHT BE IF GUMO REPS SEEK TO PRESENT THEIR CASE BEFORE APPROPRIATE UN ORGAN. B) WOULD

ALSO APPRECIATE DEPT'S VIEWS RE DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING DR. SIMIAO TO US ON IV GRANT, OR USING PARTIAL GRANT TO PAY HER EXPENSES IN US, AFTER UN APPEARANCE. WHILE SUCH STAY MAY BE SOMEWHAT PREMATURE IN TERMS OF ACTUAL SUPPORT WHICH DR. SIMIAO'S GROUP HAS WITHIN MOZAMBIQUE AT PRESENT HER PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS MAKE HER IDEAL CANDIDATE. DESPITE RECENTNESS OF HER VISIT, DR. SIMIAO HAS BECOME WITHOUT QUESTION THE MOST ACTIVE AFRICAN WOMAN, AND AT THIS POINT PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AFRICAN POLITICAL PERSONAGE, TO APPEAR INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE. SHE IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED POLITICALLY, AND APPEARS TO HAVE OBJECTIVES IN HARMONY WITH OUR OWN. IF SHE CAN GET PORTUGUESE PERMISSION TO APPEAR, SHE WILL CAUSE A STIR AT UN, AND SHE WILL BE IMPRESSIVE GUEST DURING HER US VISIT IF IT COMES OFF.

VAN OSS

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